



Center for Public Health Preparedness

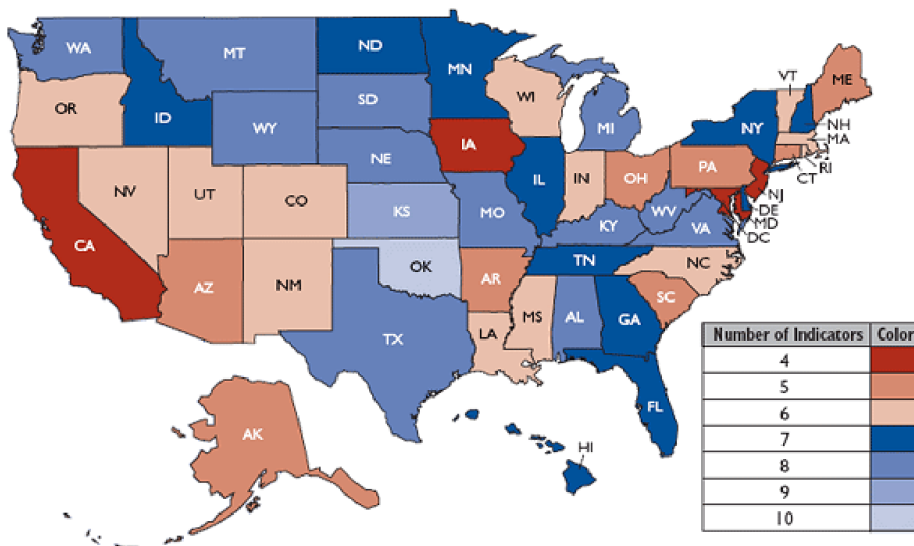
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KS Preparedness Times

Kansas Nationally Ranked #2 for Preparedness in 2006 TFAH Report



Kansas ranked second in the nation by meeting nine out of 10 criteria for public health emergency preparedness in a report released Dec. 12, 2006 by Trust for America's Health (TFAH), a national non-profit organization that studies and evaluates health readiness and response capabilities in all 50 states. The full report, "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism," can be found on the Web at www.healthyamericans.org. A summary of the report is also available on the TFAH Web site.

The annual TFAH report uses 10 indicators to rate preparedness, and most of the indicators change each year. The new set of indicators focus on a variety of areas tied to public health and hospital preparedness, including laboratory and surveillance capacity, flu vaccination, Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) readiness and other issues. The SNS is a federal stockpile of drugs and medical supplies that can be shipped rapidly to states in case of an emergency.

The single indicator that Kansas did not meet – Indicator #1, to achieve 'green' status for SNS delivery – was met by just 15 other states. Kansas currently holds 'amber plus' on the SNS status, which is just below 'green,' the highest rating a state can achieve.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Adjutant General's Department, local health departments, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, school districts and other groups recently completed Kansas HEAT, a statewide SNS exercise. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) helped evaluate the exercise, and is likely to take it into consideration when CDC reassesses Kansas SNS readiness in early 2007.

"It is rewarding to know Kansas is among the leaders in the country in preparedness efforts, and we will continue to diligently take every action necessary to be ready for whatever disaster may strike and to empower every Kansan to do what is necessary as an individual to best protect themselves and their loved ones," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General.

"With the all-hazards approach to emergency planning and preparedness that Kansas has rightly embraced, our responsibilities in this area will only continue to expand," said Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Director of Health. "Changing indicators such as those used in the Trust for America's Health report help us to stay adaptable and flexible, which is important."

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CPHP Staff Profiles

Mindee Reece, Director

Mindee Reece is the Director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness, having served as the Director of the Kansas Bioterrorism Program since it was created in April 2002. She oversees all public health and hospital preparedness activities, which focus on preventing, detecting, reporting, investigating, controlling, and recovering from human illness related to chemical, biological, and radiological agents, and naturally occurring human health threats.



Mindee directs policy development for CPHP and is responsible for the interagency collaboration between KDHE and other local, state, and federal partners on Homeland Security-related matters.

She has worked for KDHE for 15 years, holding a variety of positions including Director of the Tuberculosis Control Program, Interim Director of the Immunization Program, Public Health Educator in the Tobacco Use Prevention Program, and Public Information Officer in the Division of Environment.

Mindee graduated from Washburn University of Topeka in May 1988 with a bachelor's degree in communication studies/public relations and a minor in sociology, and is a Past-President of the Kansas Public Health Association.

When not working, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading mystery novels, and cheering on the KU Jayhawks and the KC Chiefs.

Kathy Holm, Asst. Director

Kathy Holm serves as the assistant director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness. She oversees the administrative responsibilities of the Center, including the processing of contracts with local health departments and regional bioterrorism groups, technical assistance visits, work plan guidance, and reporting for the Center.

Kathy has been employed by the state of Kansas for 11 years, working as an auditor for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Department of Revenue before joining KDHE in 2005. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Kansas.



Kathy has been married to her husband, Dave, for almost 30 years. They have two children, Ashley and Ryan, who are in college. In her spare time she likes to garden, work in the yard and keep Dave busy with a long list of honey-dos. Their house is growing older, and they have embarked on a mission of redecorating, one room at a time, as money and time allow.

Sandy Johnson, Director of Operations

Sandy Johnson serves as the Operations Director for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. She supervises six staff members who are responsible for the Center's Exercise Program, implementation of the HRSA grant program, local planning and template development, and the Kansas Strategic National Stockpile Program.

Her responsibilities include: incorporating public health and medical components into state level planning efforts, issuing guidance and templates to local health departments and hospitals, ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to request, receive and manage the materiel in the Strategic National Stockpile, and facilitating the development of internal KDHE protocols for responding to public health and medical emergencies in Kansas.



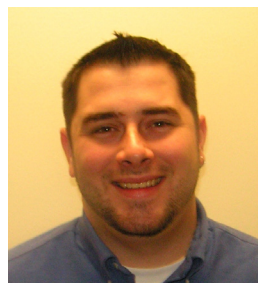
Sandy lives in Topeka and has been a Kansan for 13 years. She originally hails from upstate NY (Buffalo area) where she attended the State University of NY at Geneseo. She served four years active duty in the Army where she met the man of her dreams.

After returning to Germany for a year as civilian contractors, Ken and Sandy decided to make Topeka their home. They have four children, two in elementary school, one in college, and one in the real world. Ken is a technical inspector for the Kansas Army National Guard at Forbes Field in Topeka.

Bryan Barnes, Communications Interoperability Coordinator

Bryan Barnes is the Communications Interoperability Coordinator for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. He is responsible for a number of tasks at KDHE, including development of planning and guidance relating to communications at the state and local levels.

Bryan works with Randy Thode to perform the functions of the Health Alert Network as required by the CDC. Bryan also spends time working on the PHIX system by updating pages and processing reports. Bryan received his training in the communications field during his time in the Marine Corps, where he was a computer systems specialist. He was also cross-trained as a field radio operator, field wireman and switchboard operator.



Bryan and his wife Virginia, who researches the effects of stroke at Kansas University Medical Center, enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, biking and playing soccer. He also enjoys playing the drums, guitar and ukulele. Virginia recently gave birth to Miles, their first child.

Stacy Robarge-Silkner, Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator

Stacy Robarge-Silkner is the Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. Stacy is responsible for all phases of SNS including preparedness, response, and recovery.

Stacy has been with the CPHP for over a year. Previously she was the Rural Planning Specialist working directly with local health departments in rural areas. As the Rural Planning Specialist, Stacy co-wrote the SNS Standard Operating Guide Template and the Risk Communications Standard Operating Guide Template.



Stacy has a bachelor's of general studies from the University of Kansas. She is in the process of earning a master's of business administration and a master's of public health from Walden University.

Before coming to work for KDHE, Stacy worked for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department as the Medical Reserve Corps Planner. In this position, she was responsible for building a Medical Reserve Corps program from the ground up and recruiting volunteers. Previous to working for LDCHD, Stacy was the Traffic Safety Specialist for the Kansas Safety Belt Education Office.

Stacy lives in Lawrence with her husband, Paul, two daughters, Hana and Ayalah, her son Maximilian Joseph (Max), born in August and her dog, Jazz.

Stacy enjoys reading and can often be found with her nose in a book. Her favorite things include swimming at the beach or lake, painting crafts with her kids, and listening to "older" music with her husband. Her favorite bands include the Eagles, Pink Floyd, and Aerosmith.

Amanda Hodle, Epidemiologist-Trainer

Amanda Hodle, MPH, is an epidemiologist and trainer for the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Amanda's focus at KDHE is the development and implementation of a variety of training courses for local health



departments across the state. She also supports the work of the Center for Public Health Preparedness by providing technical support for many projects and programs.

Amanda is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine with a Master's degree in public health. She is also a graduate of Kansas State University with

Bachelor's degrees in Microbiology and Biochemistry.

In her spare time, Amanda restores her century-old home in Oskaloosa, a small town north of Lawrence, and reads books of every genre.

Sue Riley, Laboratory Bioterrorism Program Manager

Sue Riley is the Laboratory Program Manager for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. The laboratory portion of the CDC grant is focused on the public health laboratory and the statewide laboratory response network.

Sue's current professional goals are to develop cooperation among clinical laboratories across Kansas, improve disease reporting compliance, and incorporate public health into laboratory response plans. Prior to holding this position, she was the Laboratory Training Coordinator for Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories and provided training for physician office, hospital, reference, and



public health laboratories. For the past 13 years, she has served as the state training coordinator as part of the National Laboratory Training Network. She also participated with the Kansas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and as part of the Kan-Be-Healthy training team. Sue was closely associated with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act

(CLIA) program.

Sue earned a bachelor's of science in biology from Kansas State University and holds certification as a clinical laboratory scientist from the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel and a medical technology certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathology. She is also a scholar from the first class of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute.

Sue is past president of the Kansas Society of Clinical Laboratory Science, a member of Clinical Laboratory Managers Association, and the Kansas Public Health Association. Additionally, she serves on the North Central Consortium of States and is a member the Association of Public Health Laboratories. Before her involvement in public health, Sue's career included clinical laboratory analysis in hospital and reference laboratories in human and veterinary facilities and pharmaceutical research.

Sue and her husband, Bob Kemper, live in Jackson County with their menagerie including cats, dogs, llamas and a parrot. Their combined family includes five grown children and two grandchildren. The couple enjoys motorcycle trips, classic cars, gardening and the quiet country life.

Do you have news about your agency's preparedness efforts? If you would like to include it in the next issue of the **KS Preparedness Times**, please email your news to Mike Cameron at: mcamero1@kdhe.state.ks.us

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Mike Heideman, Communications Design Specialist

Mike Heideman is the Communications Design Specialist in the KDHE Office of Communications where he assists CPHP staff with crisis and risk communications planning, message development, and training.



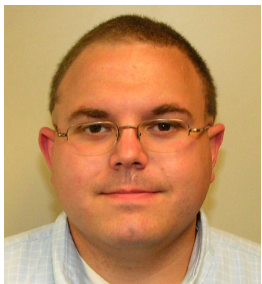
Mike began his public health career in October 1996 in the Public Information Office of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and was promoted to Director of Public Information where he served until August 2002.

Mike traveled to Hancock County, Miss. to assist with emergency communications efforts during November 2005 in the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina. While serving as director of public information, he also helped manage KDHE's communications effort in response to the natural gas explosions in Hutchinson in the spring of 2001. Mike has also earned a Group Recognition Award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and helped lead communications efforts for several disease outbreaks.

Mike holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Washburn University in Topeka and has taken post-graduate courses through the University of Kansas School of Preventive Medicine. He is also a graduate of the Kansas Public Health Certificate Program and the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute. Mike is single and enjoys reading, movies, martial arts and singing.

Greg Morgan, Contingency Planner

Greg Morgan is the Contingency Planner at the Center for Public Health Preparedness. Originally from Diamond, Mo, Greg received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Missouri Southern State University and a master of science in plant pathology from Kansas State University.



Before joining the CPHP team, Greg worked as an environmental scientist with the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Prior to joining KDOT, he worked for a year as a research associate at the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine on a U. S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service funded Foreign Animal

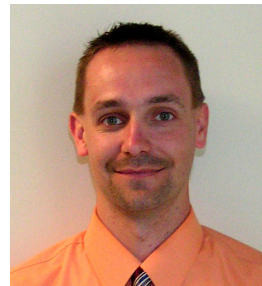
Disease Pathway Analysis.

Greg is married to the former Heather Jones of Pratt. Heather is the Director of Public and Legislative Affairs for the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority. Greg's hobbies include training and field trialing English setters, golfing, and cheering on the KSU Wildcats.

Michael McNulty, Operations Specialist

Michael McNulty is the Operations Specialist for the Center for Public Health Preparedness, working with the health and medical community. Michael serves as the Center's expert on hazardous materials, personal protective and decontamination equipment, and NIMS/ICS. He also provides technical assistance and guidance to KDHE staff, local health departments, and hospitals.

He is the agency's lead for the CHEMPACK Project, which is designed to assure that lifesaving pharmaceuticals related to chemical exposures are readily available in Kansas.



Michael is also the CPHP's liaison with the Division of Environment, State Board of Emergency Medical Services, the state's burn centers, and the state mental health agency.

Michael holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science with a minor in geology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and has completed 18 hours of a master's degree program in criminal justice with an emphasis in homeland security. He is also a Kansas certified trainer for all levels of ICS.

Prior to his appointment to the Center for Public Health Preparedness in January 2004, Michael served as an Environmental Geologist with the KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation for over three years.

In December 2001, Michael was awarded a certificate from the Secretary of KDHE for Outstanding Performance to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Michael's hobbies are riding his motorcycle and reading. He also enjoys horseback riding, movies, and working around the house.

Barry Autrey, Rural Planning Specialist

Barry Autrey is the Rural Planning Specialist for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. Barry works primarily with local health departments and Emergency Management officials in preparing, maintaining and qualifying their response plans and resources.

A Kansas native, with roots in Clay County, Barry has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. His experience is in transportation, nuclear security and law enforcement.



Barry currently resides near Waverly, Ks. He is married to Cathy and has two sons, Joshua and Matthew. His hobbies include hunting and reading.

Alicia Parkman, Outreach and Planning Specialist

Alicia Parkman is the Outreach and Planning Specialist for the Center for Public Health Preparedness since February 2006. Alicia is completing a Master's Degree in sociology at the University of Kansas.

Alicia primarily works on writing grant applications at the state level and on hospital planning issues. Alicia is also the program manager for the state's ESAR-VHP (Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals) program, a system being developed to allow for more efficient management of volunteer responders in Kansas.



She has a diverse background that most recently includes teaching courses at KU. Alicia has also worked at a hospital in various capacities, so she has a basic understanding of hospital administration, guidelines, and pressures that has been useful as

she works with hospitals across the state.

Alicia lives in Topeka with her husband, Shaun, a sociology graduate student at KU, and their six-month-old daughter, Meron. She and her husband love animals and have two cats, Oslo and Zinger, and one snake, Paisley. Her hobbies include reading, biking, and spending time with her husband and daughter.

Lesa Roberts, Environmental Health Officer

Lesa Roberts is the Environmental Health Officer for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. Her duties are primarily with regard to the health effects of environmental contaminants and potential exposures for which Kansans are at particular risk. She coordinates the CPHP Environmental Health Hazards Work Group in support of the CDC grant activities addressing environmental health preparedness.

Lesa holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the KU School of Medicine. Additionally, Lesa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She is the mother of one daughter, Katie, who works as a paralegal at an intellectual property law firm in Kansas City, Mo., and two "furry" children who remain unemployed. Running, biking and swimming are a few of the non-work related activities Lesa enjoys along with riding her Harley.



Her tenure of 16 years with KDHE was interrupted for a year when she attended KUMC for her master's program. Prior to becoming an Environmental Health Officer, Lesa was the director for the Bureau of Consumer Health for two years and Health Occupations Credentialing for eight years. Before that she held management positions in health facilities regulation, health and environmental education and AIDS prevention and risk reduction.

Jo Cook, Grant and Contract Specialist

Jo Cook is the Grant and Contract Specialist for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. As such, she works specifically with the fiscal management of the HRSA grant and is the lead staff person related to all HRSA grant reporting. Jo also oversees KDHE's HRSA-funded contracts.

Jo will complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Kansas State University in May 2007.

She is the mother of one son, Jarod, and continues a close relationship with her stepdaughter Miranda.



When not studying, Jo's spare time is filled with watching her beloved Wildcats play football and basketball (win or lose) as well as taking in a few NFL games on TV. Time with family and friends (especially the Friday Night Gang) is high on the list of Jo's activities.

Prior to joining CPHP as a permanent employee, Jo spent a couple of tours with the Center as a contract/temporary employee. She has also worked at the Kansas Legislature, during the legislative sessions, as the Administrative Assistant to the chairman of the House Utilities Committee.

Mike Cameron, Risk Communications Specialist

Mike Cameron is the Risk Communications Specialist for the KDHE Office of Communications, working with bioterrorism and public health threat communications planning in the CPHP. Mike handles risk communications training for KDHE and CPHP staff, and local partners.

He teams up with Mike Heideman to create message maps, fact sheets and templates for use by our local partners, and they provide assistance to the local health departments and other stakeholders with risk communication concerns.

He keeps the CPHP Web site updated and oversaw the creation of the *Flu Bug U* multi-media campaign.



Mike graduated from Washburn University in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in mass media/print journalism and minor in anthropology. Mike is also a graduate of the Public Health Certificate Program. He also is a CDC-certified train-the-trainer on Pandemic Flu Risk Communication.

Prior to his appointment to the KDHE CPHP in 2003, Mike served as the public information officer for the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office. In 2001, his work on smoke alarm advocacy and fire safety in the home was recognized by Safe Kids Kansas, when he was named Outstanding Coalition Member for 2001.

Mike hobbies are fishing and photography. He is a motorsports fan and has attended ARCA, NASCAR, NHRA, Indy Car and SCCA races in Indianapolis, Kansas City, Phoenix and Topeka.

KS Preparedness Times

M. Ella Vajnar, Medical Investigator Western Kansas

Ella Vajnar is one of three Medical Investigators for the Center of Public Health Preparedness. Her position is located in the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology. Ella operates out of the Hays District Offices.

Her region includes 36 counties in central Kansas. The goal of the Medical Investigation staff is to increase the disease surveillance and investigation capabilities of the local health departments by providing resources, assistance, and training to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of those workers at the local level.



Ella's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in biology, with an emphasis in microbiology, from Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Mo. She has taken graduate classes in public health at St. Louis University, and earned ASCP Certification as a medical technologist graduating from Hays Pathology School of Medical

Technology in Hays, Kan. She is currently working on a Certificate in Field Epidemiology from North Carolina University's School of Public Health.

Prior to her employment with the Center in December 2002, Ella worked for four years at Hays Pathology Laboratory (now known as Central Plains Laboratory), where she worked as a laboratory assistant, medical technologist, and eventually the infectious disease technical specialist for the Infectious Disease Department.

Ella enjoys time with her husband, Curt, who is the agriculture science teacher at Hays High School and her three boys, Conrad (6), Colton (4), and Cyrus (1). She spends her free time on family activities, including travel to visit relatives in Marion and Meade County, as well as those in southeast Missouri.

A current family project includes restoring native grass and establishing rows of over 10,000 trees and shrubs to a little piece of the prairie outside of Antonino, Kan.

Nkolika Obiesie, Medical Investigator

Nkolika started her career with KDHE under the Bureau of Health Promotion in April of 2001. She served in the capacity of an Epidemiologist with the Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, also known as The Free-To-Know Program for almost two years.



In March 2003, she transferred to the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology, in the Bioterrorism Program now known as the Center

for Public Health Preparedness. She is currently serving as the field epidemiologist for the KC metro area.

Randy Thode, Health Alert Network Coordinator

Randy Thode is the Health Alert Network Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, working with bioterrorism and public health threat alert planning in the Center for Public Health Preparedness.



Randy works with Bryan Barnes to improve and maintain the state's health alert network and to help provide guidance to the local health departments, participating hospitals and other public health agencies, assisting with redundant communications and contingency issues.

Randy has a master's degree in education administration from Fort Hays State University and master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas.

Prior to working at the CPHP, Randy worked primarily in the Information Technology field with medical and manufacturing businesses.

His interests away from work include most sports, especially anything KU, and he still believes in the Kansas City Royals. Randy also admits to "occasionally getting obsessed with the Civil War."

Jacki Diederich, Sr. Administrative Asst.

Jacki Diederich is a Senior Administrative Assistant for the Center for Public Health Preparedness. She answers the Center's main phone line. She is responsible for the aid to local contract payments and report reviews. Jacki is also responsible for the miscellaneous contracts the Center has.

Jacki has an Associate of Science Degree from Cloud County Community College in Concordia. This is where she met Shawn, her husband of two years. The Diederichs just welcomed Hunter Travis, their first child on Jan. 20. Jacki and Shawn spend a lot of time with their four-legged kids, a 10-year-old black lab named Maggie and an American Bulldog, named Tank, who is nearly two years old but doesn't act like it.



Jacki and Shawn like to go canoeing and fishing. Their families are also important to both of them, and their 16 nieces and nephews

bring them great joy. When not watching K-State, or Kansas City Chiefs sporting events, Jacki and Shawn also like to go bowling.

Prior to joining the CPHP, Jacki was a Sr. Administrative Assistant in the Telecommunications Department at Kansas State University.

Mike Kopf, Medical Investigator Central Kansas

Mike Kopf is one of three Medical Investigators for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Center of Public Health Preparedness. His position is located in the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology. Mike operates out of the Salina and Wichita District Offices. His region includes 32 counties in central Kansas.

He attends a variety of meetings throughout his region including public health, emergency management, hospital, and public health preparedness. Mike also conducts technical

assistance visits throughout central Kansas. Mike has a Master's of Public Health from the University of Kansas School of Medicine at Wichita and is a graduate of the Public Health Certificate Program at the Kansas University Public Management Center.

Prior to his employment with the KDHE Center for Public Health Preparedness in February 2005,

Mike served as the Standardization Officer for KDHE's Bureau of Consumer Health, Food Protection Program. Mike is also on the board of Kansas Environmental Health Association, serving as Past President during 2005-2006.

Mike hobbies are hunting, fishing, taxidermy, scuba diving and canoeing. He is also a devoted father to two daughters, Caitlin (13) and Lacy (10).



Demond Johnson, Sr. Administrative Asst.

Demond Johnson is a Senior Administrative Assistant for the Center for Public Health Preparedness, aiding in various office duties, such as purchasing and inventory management.

A native Californian, he graduated from San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts in 1993, majoring in Music. Demond has played the flute, oboe, saxophone, and trombone in various bands and orchestras. He studied Anthropology at San Diego City College.

Experienced in quick-service restaurant industry, Demond began his first job at McDonald's since age 16 and became a manager at age 18. As a manager for McDonald's Corporation in San Diego, Chicago suburbs and Topeka, he gained knowledge in interpersonal communication, hospitality, restaurant management and leadership.

Demond's hobbies include study and research, computer-information science, movies, video gaming, and bodybuilding.



CPHP Staff Updates

CPHP Director Mindee Reece was recently appointed by Governor Sebelius to serve as the public health leader on the newly-created Governor's Commission for Healthy and Prepared Schools.

On Saturday, Jan. 20, Jacki Diederich gave birth to a 7 lb. 1 oz. boy named Hunter Travis. Jacki, Hunter and proud papa Shawn are all doing fine. Hunter is the newest member of the CPHP family, joining other recent additions, Max Silkiner (Robarge), Miles Barnes and Meron Parkman.



Clockwise from upper left: Hunter Diederich, Meron Parkman, Max Silkiner and Miles Barnes.

KS Preparedness Times Will Highlight Efforts of CPHP and Partners

The *KS Preparedness Times* will be published quarterly. This inaugural edition has been designed to assist agencies that work with the Center for Public Health Preparedness in getting to know the CPHP staff.

Future editions will contain news and current issues in the public health and public safety preparedness arena.

All state and local agencies are encouraged to share any news or ideas that would be of benefit to partners involved in the efforts to prepare for and respond to any crisis or emergency that would have an adverse effect on the health and/or safety of Kansans.

The newsletter will be distributed by e-mail in PDF, and all editions will be archived on the CPHP Web page. Contributions should be e-mailed to Mike Cameron at: mcamero1@kdhe.state.ks.us.

CPHP Web site:
www.ksprepared.org